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ISSUE #45 • MAY/JUNE 2014

DEPORTATION and FAMILY SEPARATION

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 11

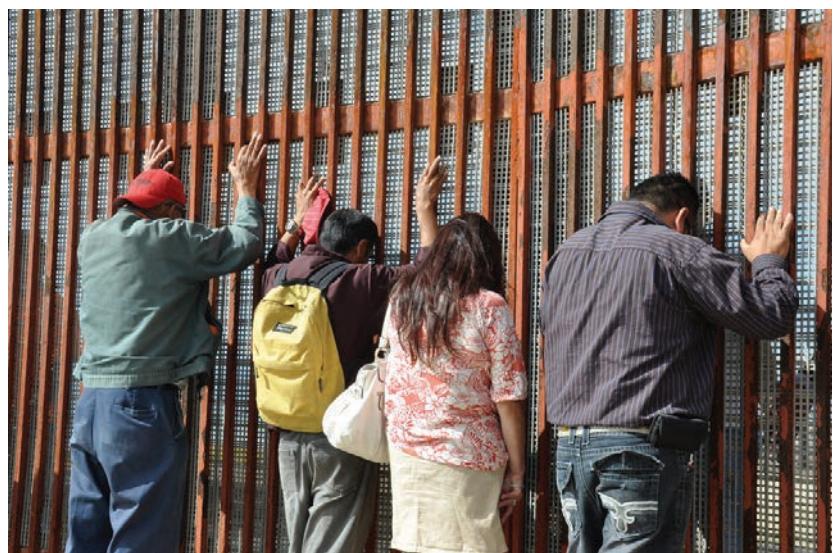
KID
REPORTER

Imagine coming home from school to find your parents missing, or watching Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Drug Enforcement Administration officials handcuff your parents and take them away. This happened to Florida teenagers Cesia Soza and Ronald Soza Jr. in September 2013 when their father, an undocumented immigrant from Nicaragua, was taken from his home to a detention center, and then deported to Nicaragua. And they are not alone.

In 2011, almost 400,000 people were **deported** from the United States and more than 360,000 were **detained** by ICE. The number of people deported each year has risen drastically over the past decade. According to a recent report by Race Forward, 22 percent of deported immigrants are parents of children who are U.S. citizens.

When parents are detained for immigration violations, they are taken away from their children to detention centers. Children who are legal residents are placed in Child Protective Services (CPS) custody and foster care until courts decide whether or not they can return to their families. Separation from parents can last for years and reunification can be very difficult.

If parents remain in detention for months or years, they cannot visit with their children, they end up missing court appointments and cannot meet CPS requirements. Because of this, judges often rule that children should be put up for adoption. Even if undocumented parents are released from detention, it is very difficult for them to resume custody because they lack proof of income, health care and enough money to afford housing and transportation.



BBC WORLD SERVICE

Separated from each other, families communicate through the border fence in Friendship Park that cuts between San Diego on the U.S. side and Tijuana on the Mexican side.



CF PEREDA/Flickr

In 2011, almost 400,000 people were deported from the United States and more than 360,000 were detained by ICE.

Research shows that forced family separation causes long-term problems like depression and anxiety. "We don't know how many kids whose parents are deported will suffer from a serious mental or emotional disorder... but we do know that all children suffer, and that

deportation makes their lives and their education and development harder," said Dr. Schuyler Henderson, a pediatric and adolescent psychiatrist at NYU Langone Medical Center.

Advocates argue that families should not be separated because of immigration status. The report published by Race Forward suggests that if parents cannot remain in the United States, they should be allowed "to make the best decisions for the care and custody of their children."

When Barack Obama ran for president in 2008, he said, "When nursing mothers are torn from their babies, when children come home from school to find their parents missing...when all this is happening the system just isn't working and we need to change it." Yet recent reports show that since Obama took office, the United States has deported a record two million immigrants. According to the Race Forward report, parents of U.S. children are still being deported at extremely high rates, these children's rights are still being violated and families are still being separated against their will.

Deport: to expel a person from one country back to their country of origin, often due to immigration status or for having committed a crime

Detain: to hold an individual in a certain location for a period of time, often before trial or deportation proceedings



STEPHEN MELKISETHIAN

More people have been deported from the United States under the Obama Administration than any other administration in history.



Meet... **Jacob** from Belgium

Name: Jacob Schoolmeesters

Age: 14

Lives In: Kessel-Lo

Languages Spoken: Dutch

Parents' Jobs: They are both teachers

Favorite Food: Paella (a Spanish rice dish)

Favorite Subject in School: Physical education (gym)

Favorite Animal: Scottish Highland cow

Favorite Activity: Rugby

Favorite Flower: Green jade flower

What He Wants to Be When

He Grows Up: A local journalist reporting about culture, politics and the economy



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Belgium at a Glance

Capital of Belgium: Brussels

Population: 11.1 million

Languages Spoken: Dutch, French and German

Religions: 58% Roman Catholic, 27% non-religious, 7% Protestant, 6% Muslim, 2% other

Learn More: Belgium is a country in Western Europe to the north of France and south of the Netherlands. It is divided into the Dutch-speaking Flemish region in the north and the French and German-speaking Walloon region in the south and east. Its capital, Brussels, is home to the United Nations headquarters. In Belgian cities, it is common to see many people traveling by bike, from very young children to the elderly.

40,000

The number of foreign workers on military bases who cook, clean and do laundry for U.S. soldiers. Source: Al Jazeera English

nation&world

NYC Charter Schools and Mayor Bill de Blasio

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 10

Charter schools will now receive more money per pupil than public schools, due to a budget agreement reached by the New York State legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo in March 2013. Gov. Cuomo's decision clashes with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's controversial move in February to restrict charter schools' usage of public school space for their classes. New York City has 183 charter schools, which are schools funded by both the government and private funds, and there are over 5,000 in the United States.

When he was campaigning, Mayor de Blasio pledged to fight for economic justice for all New Yorkers, and one way he planned to do that was to improve the quality of public education. De Blasio believes that charter schools take money and

resources away from traditional public schools.

In an exclusive interview with *IndyKids*, Queens City Council Member Daniel Dromm remarked, "de Blasio didn't get his message out as strongly as [charter school operator] Eva Moskowitz." Charter supporters, he continued, "spent millions of dollars in an ad campaign to make charter schools look like the solution to public school problems."

However, charter school supporters say that they create a different kind of learning environment for students and have flexible approaches to education. They also point out that the majority of charter school students are African-



KATHRYN SCHLECHTER

Mayor de Blasio believes that charter schools take money and resources away from traditional public schools.

American and Latino children who would otherwise be attending underperforming public schools.

But there are different rules for charter schools. For example, teachers in charter schools are not required to have a teacher's license or master's degree. Most charter schools also have the option of not accepting learning disabled and English Language Learner students.

The NSA and You

By DECLAN PETERSON, age 11

After the Sept. 11 attacks, domestic spying in the United States increased dramatically. The National Security Agency (NSA) started a domestic spying program called the President's **Surveillance** Program. The NSA still considers the program classified, but information has been leaked by concerned government officials. The *New York Times* broke the story of the surveillance program in 2005, and President George W. Bush admitted that the surveillance program spied on Americans believed to be communicating with people connected with terrorist suspects.

In 2007, Microsoft became the first major technology company to cooperate with the NSA's Planning Tool for Resource Integration, Synchronization and Management (PRISM) program, giving them the ability to collect data on internet activity. Over the next few years, Yahoo, Google and social networking companies were pulled into the program, which wasn't revealed to the public until years later.

In 2013, the *Guardian* reported that the NSA had been collecting millions of Verizon customers' call data. According to an investigation by *USA Today*, companies in the United States, including AT&T, MCI and Sprint,



SUSAN MELKISETHIAN

handed over the call-detail records of their customers, which included personal information.

In a 2014 interview, former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden said, "[the U.S. government is] monitoring everybody's communications instead of suspects' communications."

President Obama supports the NSA's efforts and claims that 50 terrorist threats have been detected because of the program. However, the only success that the NSA had was discovering that a cab driver sent \$8,500 to a terrorist organization in Somalia. According to the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, appointed by the president, the surveillance is illegal.

Surveillance: watching someone closely, especially if the person is suspected of being a criminal

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Published in print five times a year in September, November, January, March and May; Website updated once a month

Issue #45 • Printed May 3, 2014

ISSN: 1943-1031

WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. **IndyKids** is funded through donations and grants.

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

The supporters and readers of **IndyKids**: New York Community Trust Councilmember Daniel Dromm, New York City Cultural Affairs, Bay and Paul Foundation, Broadway United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, The Wolf Baumer Family, Mr. Kimber, Simin Farkhondeh, Kit Mills, The Indypendent, DCTV, DreamYard, SolarOne, Democracy Now!, New Learning Times, Rethinking Schools, NYCORE, 826NYC, Columbia Journalism School

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact **IndyKids**: Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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IndyKids would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in the organization during the past school year. The production of so many wonderful issues would not have been possible without your hard work and dedication to this project. Special thanks goes out to all of our dedicated volunteers, including mentors, editors, interns, our talented Kid Reporter Program team, our marvelous distribution team, and of course, all of our amazing Kid Reporters. A big thank you as well to all of our incredibly supportive parents and teachers. We look forward to working with you again in the coming school year!

Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- a) Belgium ____
- b) Afghanistan ____
- c) Iraq ____
- d) Nicaragua ____
- e) Uganda ____
- f) India ____
- g) Russia ____
- h) North Carolina ____
- i) Staten Island ____



Working Behind the Scenes of U.S. Military Bases

By ALEJANDRA PAULINO, age 12

Since 2002, South Asian workers in Afghanistan and Iraq have been working in military bases, but not getting paid the money they were promised by **exploitative** recruiters and military contractors. Military contractors are companies who have arrangements with the United States to provide services in areas where we are at war.

There are 40,000 foreign workers on military bases who cook, clean and do laundry for U.S. soldiers. A report for *Al Jazeera America* by investigative journalists Anjali Kamat and Sam Black says that more than 500,000 contract laborers have worked since 2002. It also estimates that this system has wasted over \$15 billion of U.S. taxpayer money.

In the report, a foreign worker, Ravi, talks about his job on a military base. He says that a recruiter in his home country was going to send him to work for a private corporation hired by the U.S. military. "The recruiter said I will get basically \$1,200 USD [U.S. dollars] per month," he said. Ravi made much less than he was promised, only \$500 dollars per month, but he had paid his recruiter \$4,000 for the job. This means he would have to stay at the job longer to pay his recruiter back.

In other words, the United States is involved in a form of human trafficking, defined by the United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime as recruiting people into an exploitative job under false terms.

In 2012, President Obama issued an executive order meant to strengthen regulations against human trafficking in federal contracts. However, the practices are still continuing, and the U.S. government has not yet responded to the *Al Jazeera America* article. In an interview with *IndyKids*, Kamat said, "We are following up with the U.S. government and hope they will further investigate the matter."

Exploit: to take advantage of another person's difficult or disempowered circumstances for personal gain



ANJALI KAMAT

Subcontractors are recruiting workers from South Asian countries to work on U.S. military bases in Afghanistan and Iraq under fraudulent terms.

Getting There: Public Transportation Use on the Rise

By NYLU AVERY BERNSHAYN, age 9

Every day, people get on the subway or the bus, or jump on a bicycle from a public bike sharing program to get to work or school. According to the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), Americans want to have more public transit services in their communities, and the annual ridership is the highest it has been since 1956.

There are many benefits to using public transportation. According to the Federal Transit Administration, using public transportation reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gases and other pollutants. A single commuter switching to public transportation can reduce a household's carbon emissions by 10 to 30 percent. APTA reports that 1.1 million jobs are created or sustained each year because of public transportation, and a household can save more than \$9,700 by using it.

Although there are social and environmental benefits to using public transportation, not everyone has access to public transit systems. This affects public health and access to jobs, childcare, housing, medical care and education. For some, access to public transportation affects their ability to hold a job. "That's the thing that hurts me the most, having experience



KATHRYN SCHLECHTER

According to the Federal Transit Administration, using public transportation reduces energy consumption, greenhouse gases and other pollutants. In the city of San Francisco, streetcars are one of several forms of public transportation available.

and qualifications, but you can't get to the destination," said Lebron Stinson, an unemployed former truck driver in Chattanooga, TN.

The city of Detroit has lost about half of its bus service since 2005 due to severe budget cuts. According to the Transportation Riders United, a rider advocacy group, wait times have been getting longer for many of the 110,000 daily passengers who depend on the buses there. "I'm hurting," said George Jones, 57 and a regular Detroit bus rider. "A lot of times they don't come around, and when they do, they just pass you by."

newsbriefs



PUBLIC CITIZEN

McCutcheon v. FEC: A Win for Wealthy Voters



By SADIE PRICE-ELLIOTT, age 12

In March 2014, the Supreme Court announced its decision on the *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission* case. All five conservative justices agreed that the limit of money that an individual can give to a political party or candidates is "unconstitutional" and campaign donation limits were raised. Critics of the decision say that it will decrease the influence of average voters and increase corruption.

LGBTQ Youth and Homelessness



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By JAVIER INIGUEZ, age 9

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio added \$1.3 million to the 2014 budget for LGBTQ youth services. A national study by organizations working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth showed that LGBTQ kids and teens represent at least 40 percent of homeless youth in the United States. According to a 2008 census, there are not enough shelter beds and they are often victims of hate crimes and discrimination on the street.

New Nicaragua Canal Could Harm the Environment



MAT HONAN/Flickr

By SPENCER NEUMAN, age 10

The Nicaraguan government and the Hong Kong Nicaragua Canal Development Investment Company are planning to build a canal that scientists say will harm the environment. The Nicaraguan Academy of Sciences and *National Geographic* say that the project will threaten rainforests and endangered species. Like the Panama Canal, the Nicaragua canal will link the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, but would destroy one million acres of rainforest land and cause irreparable damage to Lake Nicaragua.

LGBTQ Rights Around the World

UNITED STATES By THEO FRYE-YANOS, age 11

In 2013, six new states legalized same-sex marriage. A further victory for the LGBTQ rights movement in the same year was the Supreme Court ruling in *United States v. Windsor* which overturned section three of the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as between one man and one woman. The law stated that the federal government would not recognize same-sex marriages, meaning that they would not provide marriage benefits or privileges to same-sex couples. Furthermore, Delaware passed a law in 2013 that prohibits discrimination based on sexual identity, which aims to protect transgender and gender-queer people from discrimination in the workplace.

However, there is still a long way to go to overcome bullying, discrimination, violence against and homelessness among LGBTQ youth and adults. Many states still have not repealed discriminatory laws or passed adequate protections against discriminatory practices:

- Same-sex marriage is still not legal in 33 states. This means that a couple can get married in one state, but then not have their marriage recognized with they travel or move to most other states.
- Job discrimination based on sexual orientation is still LEGAL in 29 states, meaning an employer can technically fire or refuse to hire someone for being part of the LGBTQ community.
- Job discrimination based on gender identity is still LEGAL in 33 states, meaning an employer can fire or refuse to hire someone for being **transgender** or **gender non-conforming**.

According to *ColorLines*, violence against LGBTQ individuals is on the rise in the United States. A 2013 report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) found that 25 anti-LGBTQ homicides were committed in 2012. This the fourth highest yearly total ever recorded by the coalition.



SOUTH AMERICA By SADIE PARKER, age 11

Twelve out of 13 South American countries have legalized homosexuality. Legally, the most LGBTQ-friendly South American countries are Argentina, Brazil, French Guiana and Uruguay. In those countries homosexuality is legal, same sex marriages or **civil unions** are protected, same-sex couples are allowed to adopt and they have some form of anti-discrimination laws concerning not just sexual orientation, but also gender identity. Yet violence against the LGBTQ community seems to have no relationship to progressive laws in place. According to Grupo Gay da Bahia, 44 percent of the world's anti-LGBTQ violence occurs in Brazil.

There are also countries where homosexuality may be legal, but are less LGBTQ friendly. For example, Guatemala and Peru have few LGBTQ protections in place. Guyana is the sole South American country that has outlawed homosexuality. Though the laws are largely unenforced, homosexual activity is punishable by sentences of up to life in prison.

AFRICA By SADIE PARKER, age 11

On February 24, 2014, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda signed a law that criminalizes homosexuality, making it punishable by 14 years to life in prison. The law also extends to **allies** of LGBTQ individuals.

Other African countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have similar laws, as homosexuality is illegal in 38 of 54 African countries. Frank Mugisha, the Director of Sexual Minorities Uganda, says that the U.S. **evangelical** movement is largely to blame for fueling the fire against homosexuality in Africa. "There is no question that the well-funded U.S. evangelical movement has aided economic development in Uganda," he wrote in the *Guardian*. "But there is also no doubt ... that they have relentlessly stoked a loathing and disgust of sexual minorities."

On the other hand, South Africa's 1994 constitution was the first in the world to make it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation, and in 2006, it was the fifth country to legalize same-sex marriage. Still, there is a gap between the law and culture.

Grassroots activists like Funeka Soldaat, founder of the LGBTQ rights organization Free Gender in South Africa, are fighting back along with numerous organizations throughout the continent to change laws and provide safe havens for their communities.

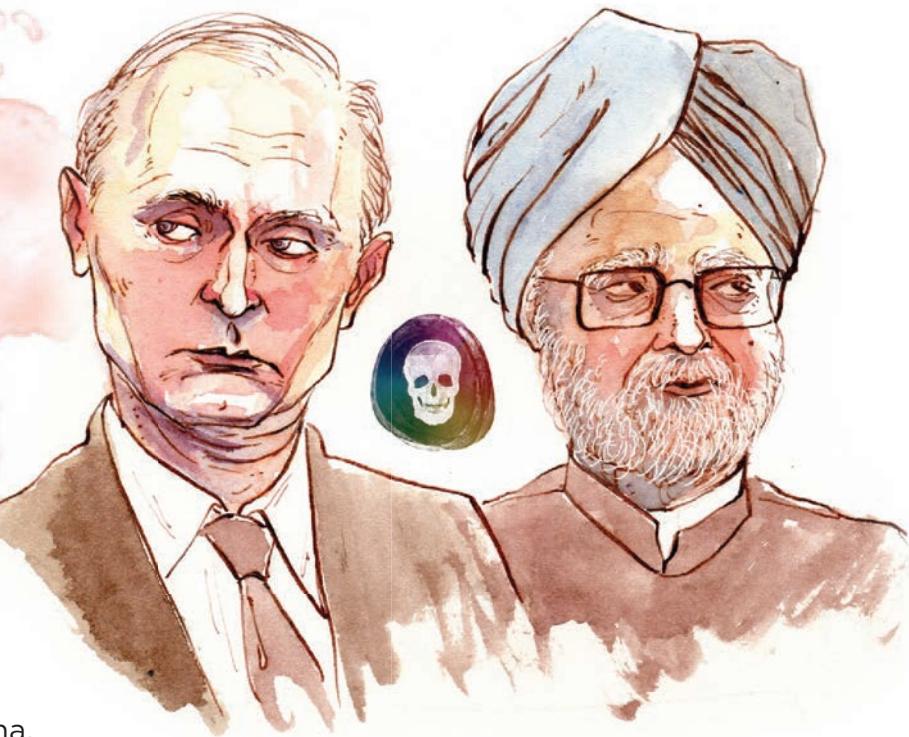


EUROPE By IndyKids Staff

In general, European countries have proven to be progressive on LGBTQ issues. In 2010, Iceland became the first nation in the world to legalize same-sex marriage. Nine other countries out of 16 have legalized it since, and Austria, Finland, Germany, Greenland, Ireland, Luxembourg and Switzerland are currently considering marriage equality legislation. In Ireland, a 2008 poll demonstrated that 73 percent of the population was in favor of its passage. However, violence against LGBTQ individuals occurs throughout the continent, in some eastern countries, like Poland and Ukraine, there is still resistance to LGBTQ rights.

RUSSIA By DAPHNE KNOUSE-FRENZER, age 12

Russia has been in the global spotlight for its ongoing crackdown on the LGBTQ community. In summer 2013, the Russian government passed a law fining any individual or organization involved in "propaganda of non-traditional relationships to minors," effectively making speech or action around LGBTQ rights illegal. Another law was passed soon after, preventing couples from countries that allow same-sex marriage from adopting Russian children. Russian activists who spoke out against these laws took to the streets, organizing public demonstrations.



ASIA By DAPHNE KNOUSE-FRENZER, age 12

In Asia, no country has legalized same-sex marriage, but China, Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan and others are becoming increasingly tolerant of LGBTQ couples. Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India all outlaw homosexuality. Indian activists continue to protest the decision to re-criminalize homosexuality. However, as of April 2014, India officially recognizes a third gender, a historic ruling for their transgender population. Malaysia is particularly harsh for LGBTQ individuals with prison sentences up to 20 years for homosexuality.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Ally: a person who supports and fights for the rights of a community other than their own

Civil union: a legally recognized partnership similar to marriage, but usually lacking some of the legal benefits that marriage provides

Evangelicalism: a worldwide Protestant Christian movement that strives to spread its interpretation of Biblical and gospel teachings

Gender non-conforming: a person who does not follow the way society expects them to express their gender

LGBTQ: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning

Transgender person: Someone who was assigned one sex at birth but identifies as a different gender; for example, a baby said to be female at birth may grow up to identify as male, vice versa or otherwise.



U.N. Urges Countries to Act on Climate Change Issue

By ELEANOR HEDGES DEROY, age 11

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is calling for international action to halt globally rising temperatures. A new IPCC report calls on countries to utilize renewable energy sources, which are becoming less expensive, and decrease dependence on fossil fuels. If global warming continues, there will be increases in catastrophic weather patterns and threats to global food supplies.

Saving a Snowy Owl

By SOPHIA ROTHMAN, age 10



In January 2014, a snowy owl was hit by a bus in Washington, D.C. Since some of its feathers were burned, scientists in a rehab center in Minnesota are using a procedure called imping to help it fly again. This traditional method will allow the bird's feathers to be replaced with ones from other owls of the same species.

Oldest Message in a Bottle Ever Found

By ADEDAYO PERKOVICH, age 10



Now here is something that you might find in *Guinness Book of World Records*. In March 2014, a fisherman found a brown beer bottle with a 101-year old message inside. It was thrown into the Baltic Sea near Germany by a man named Richard Platz on May 17, 1913. This message survived the Great Depression, the Cold War and two World Wars. Scientists believe it may be the oldest message in a bottle ever discovered!

101

The age, in years, of a message in a bottle found near the German coast of the Baltic sea in March 2014. Source: the *Guardian*

culture&activism

“Moral Mondays” Movement Sweeps the South

By JACKSON NEWBY, age 10



UNITED WORKERS

On Monday, April 29, 2013, a group of North Carolina residents gathered at the state capitol in Raleigh and held the first in a series of peaceful, grassroots rallies to voice opposition to conservative policies imposed by the Republican-dominated state government. The demonstrations have become known as the Moral Mondays Movement.

The main targets of the protests are policies that (a) would prevent 500,000 low-income uninsured people from receiving Medicaid, (b) end unemployment benefits to 170,000, (c) cut pre-K education funding for 30,000 kids and (d) make it harder for the poor, African Americans and the elderly to vote because of strict voter ID laws.

These laws were passed after Republicans in North Carolina won the governor's office in 2012 and majorities in the state house and senate in 2010 with \$40 million in campaign contributions from businessman Art Pope. Pope claims that his donations simply “educate[d] voters on the issues” and are “the core of the First Amendment.”

Moral Mondays protesters disagree. “We have come to say to the extremists, who ignore the common good and have chosen the low road, your actions have worked in reverse,” said Rev. William Barber II, president of the North Carolina NAACP and leader of the Moral Monday Movement. “The more you try to oppress us, the more you will inspire us,” he said.

The movement has spread to other states, such

as Georgia and South Carolina. People are confident that the protests will bring about positive change. “The changes we need to make in Georgia to transform the state are going to take years,” said Georgia organizer Tim Franzen, “[b]ut our victory is inevitable.”

Grassroots: a bottom-up political movement organized and led by a community

Medicaid: Government-funded health insurance for low-income Americans

Voter ID laws: laws that require people to have an approved form of photo identification in order to vote

Composting Around the World

By DAPHNE OKUYMA, age 10



Counties and cities around the world have started to use composting as a way to recycle organic trash and reduce the amount of landfills and pollution. Cities spend hundreds of millions of dollars transporting trash to landfills, which also burns fuel and contributes to global warming. Compost is made out of organic trash, or waste, such as rotten leaves, leftover fruits, vegetables and other foods. It recycles organic materials into fertilizer for plants and vegetables.

South Korea uses a system for the effective collection of garbage waste and the reuse of natural resources. Garbage must be separated according to “common garbage,” food waste, recyclables, and large waste objects, or the resident will be fined.

In Canada, millions have access to curb-side organic waste collection. Residents are expected to sort their kitchen waste and place it in the appropriate bins for collection. New York City started a composting residential pilot program in 2013, with workshops for individuals and NYC schools, such as **worm composting**.

Some people are not excited about composting. For example, in June 2013, some Bronx residents complained about the smell of the composting site in the park. It can also be difficult to remember to separate organic waste from regular trash.



JOCELYN COHEN AT SUSTAINABLE FLATBUSH

Kids learning how to compost at the Sustainable Flatbush Garden in Brooklyn.

But in Portland, OR, which has had a composting program for two years now, residents report that they got used to the downsides. “It’s empowering to make less trash, and it doesn’t smell bad anymore, because our food scraps are going out more often,” Portland resident Kendra Yao told Oregon Public Radio.

Organic: material that comes from living matter, like fruits, vegetables, egg shells and unbleached paper.

Worm composting: worms to help turn the organic material into compost for fertilizer by eating the waste and passing it through their bodies.

Around the Borough: Staten Island

New York City is divided into five big neighborhoods called *boroughs*. The five boroughs are Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. Each one has a very distinct personality and could almost be its own city. For this issue, this page is dedicated to stories from Staten Island.

yourturn

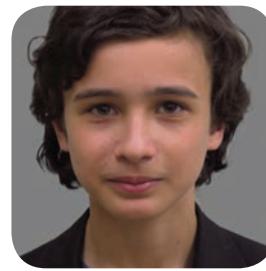
Kids Talk About the Rise in Deportations

Nearly two million individuals have been deported under President Obama's administration, setting the record for deportations under any U.S. president. Often this separates families, even taking immigrant parents away from their children who were born in the United States. *IndyKids* asked kids, "What would you say to President Obama about this rise in deportations?"



The deportation of people who do work for the benefit of this country is wrong, and some live their whole lives here as illegal immigrants. It is not easy to kick people out who have already came and have families here, but measures should be taken to further prevent deportation than currently eradicate it. Stop the problem from happening and in the long run it will disappear, but getting rid of it as soon as possible only makes things uncomfortable for a lot of people.

Mark Davidson, age 15; Staten Island, NY



I find that President Obama is not doing the right thing by deporting the undocumented immigrants. Most undocumented immigrants have families that are U.S citizens and have been law-abiding, and besides, breaking up families is not the right thing to do. I feel that what should really be happening to undocumented immigrants who have lived here for a very long time should get a visa to stay in the United States.

Rida Ali, age 10; Brooklyn, NY



I don't agree with this because of the million separated families.

Leo Madone, age 13; Staten Island, NY

Someday, you could be a University Professor, just like C.W. Anderson

By ELEANOR HEDGES DUROY, age 11



Do you like to write? Do you think you might like to teach one day? Did you ever consider becoming a professor? C.W. Anderson works as an assistant professor of Media Culture at the College of Staten Island (CUNY). *IndyKids* reporter Eleanor Hedges Duroy interviewed him about his experiences as a professor.

Eleanor Hedges Duroy: Why did you decide to get a PhD? And why did you decide to become a professor of media studies?

C.W. Anderson: For a long time I didn't think I wanted to get a PhD. But eventually I realized that I enjoyed trying to come up with answers to big, important questions, and that I was good at sharing these answers with people and at getting them to try to come up with new questions of their own. So to do that, being a professor seemed like a good idea, and to be a professor you need a PhD. **How much time do you spend teaching and how much time do you spend researching and writing articles and books?**

I usually spend two or three days a week teaching, and two or three days a week working on writing books and articles. In the summer, I just write and read.

What did you want to be when you grew up, and is it similar to or different from your current job?

I think when I was young I wanted to be an astronaut! So I guess that's pretty different than what I do now.

What advice do you have for kids who want to get a degree, like a PhD in communications or journalism?

Getting a PhD is hard work—you spend another six years in school, and don't make a lot of money for a really long while. Even after you find a job, you still won't make a lot of money. But if you love teaching and you love coming up with answers to big questions, maybe it is the job for you.



C.W. ANDERSON

Freshkills Park and Landfill Reclamation



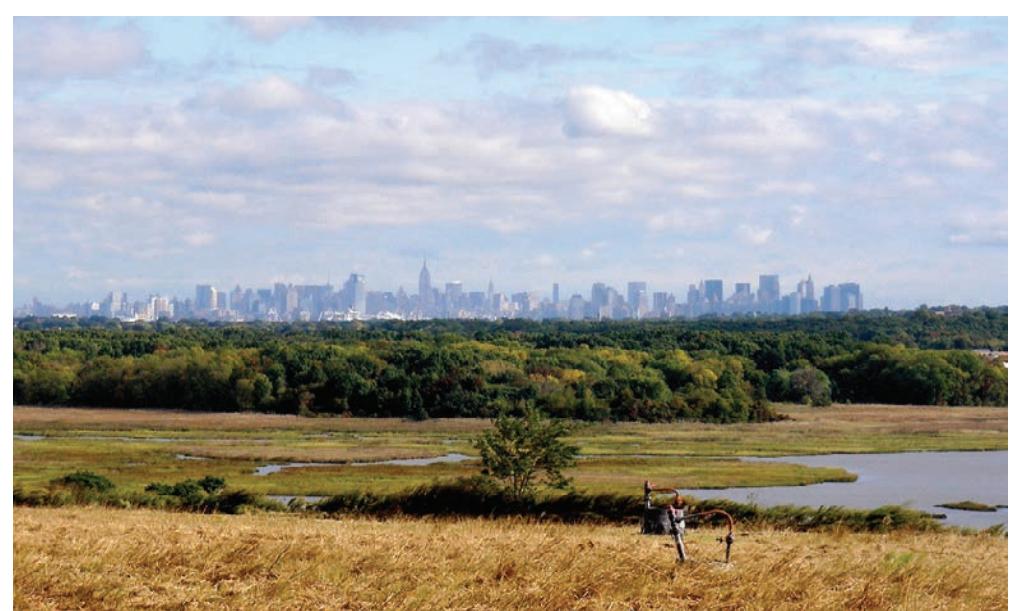
By DANIEL IVKO, age 13, and *IndyKids* Staff

Freshkills Park, a project undertaken in 2008, is currently being built in Staten Island. It is an example of environmentally sustainable landfill reclamation, or the process of turning a landfill back into usable land.

Once finished, it will be three times bigger than Central Park. This park will have four sections that will include cycling, pedestrian and horseback riding paths, as well as sports fields. The park will also contain 47 acres of solar power farms that will be able to power 2,000 homes. Staten Island residents who live next to the park will be the first ones to receive solar energy in their homes. The whole project will be funded by the city for \$14 million.

Freshkills Park is being built on the former Fresh Kills landfill that operated from 1947 to 2001. A landfill is a place where waste material is dumped, and then covered with soil. Landfills can be harmful to the environment due to the gases they give off as trash breaks down. In order to clean up Fresh Kills, engineers came up with a way to contain the waste below the soil while also trapping the methane gas emissions. The gas is then transported to a purification plant and sold to a natural gas company to power New York City homes. While natural gas may be cleaner than other forms of energy like coal and petroleum, it is still a big contributor to rising CO₂ emissions, which is why the park's solar program is so important.

In a 2013 press conference about the project, former Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, "Freshkills was once the site of the largest landfill in the world. Soon it will be one of the city's largest parks, and the site of the largest solar power installation ever developed within the five boroughs."



JAMIE ALLEN

Once finished, Freshkills Park will be three times bigger than Central Park.



ANGELA DURYEA

The Young People's Chorus travels all over the world and has won many international awards.

SINGING IN THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS IN NYC

By ADEDAYO PERKOVICH, age 10



I have a passion for music. I sing in the Young People's Chorus (YPC) of New York City, a multicultural youth chorus. Singing makes me feel like a handkerchief floating up to the heavens. I believe in pushing yourself to do what you love, and I really had to push myself to audition for YPC. My palms were sweaty and my heart pounded in my chest, but I did it, and I've come very far since that audition. I have performed at the 92nd Street Y, the Beacon Theatre, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. Being in YPC gives me a sense of community and has built my confidence.

YPC was founded in 1988 by Francisco Nuñez. Almost 1,400 kids, from ages seven to 18, sing in various YPC choral groups around the city. It is YPC's mission to give children of different cultural and economic backgrounds a musical education and provide a choral performance program. In rehearsal, we have about 10 minutes of warm-ups to prepare our voices, and then we start zipping through music scores. My chorus works on music from all over the world in many different languages, including Estonian and Japanese. The chorus travels all over the world and has won many international awards.

First Lady Michelle Obama recognized YPC with a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award in 2011. The award honors organizations that engage kids in the arts to help them in school and life. Mr. Nuñez was also named a MacArthur Fellow in the same year, receiving \$500,000 from the MacArthur Foundation for "exceptional merit and promise." Mr. Nuñez has said, "We want to continue to raise awareness among people everywhere of the importance of inclusiveness and diversity to the future of society."

WILL WE GO THE WAY OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY?

By MATTHEW DOTY, age 11



Monarch butterflies, known by their scientific name *Danaus plexippus*, are recognized by their beautiful orange and black wings. Monarch butterflies east of the Rocky Mountains are famous for the incredibly long trip they take to one small patch of trees on a Mexican mountain. Amazingly, monarchs that make the trip south are not the same ones that make it back to their summer homes in the north. Scientists still don't really understand how the children and grandchildren find their way each year, and they may never know because these monarchs are dying.

In 2004, there were approximately 500 million monarchs that made the migration to Mexico. Last year, that number



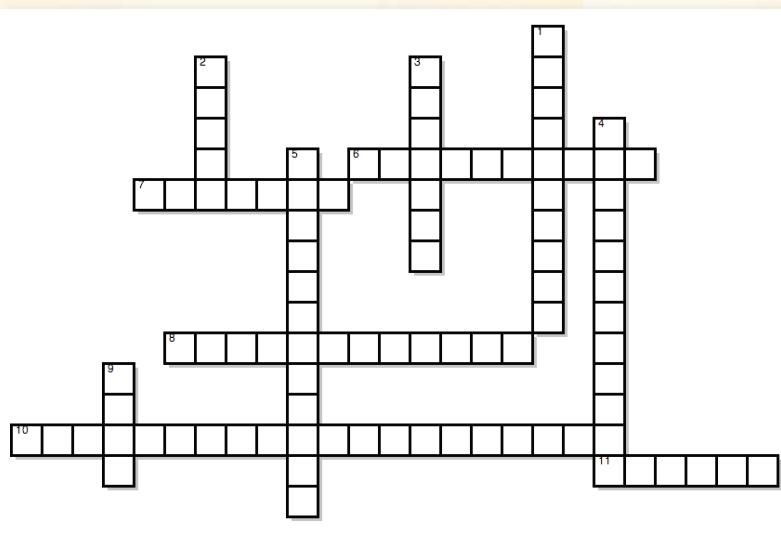
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Protecting monarchs is important to humans because the things that are killing off the monarchs also affect other pollinators. Without pollinators, food plants don't make food. Even if you don't like vegetables, we can't live without plant food because they are primary producers for all food. If we can't save pollinators like the monarch's, we may lose our food as well.

was 60 million. This year, it was only 33 million.

Scientists think there are three reasons for the monarch's decline. First, monarch larvae feed on milkweed, which is being destroyed by the herbicides farmers use to produce food for our growing population. Also, a warmer climate prevents monarch eggs from hatching. Finally, illegal logging is destroying the monarch's winter home in Mexico.

In February, the Presidents of the United States and Mexico, and the Prime Minister of Canada, met to discuss sustainability issues and committed to create a group to save the monarch butterfly.



Protecting monarchs is important to humans because the things that are killing off the monarchs also affect other pollinators. Without pollinators, food plants don't make food.

ORIGINAL CARTOON BY ANALOUIZA FARKHONDEH

By ANALOUIZA FARKHONDEH, age 8



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN

1 A way to recycle organic trash and reduce the amount of landfills and pollution.

2 A narrow water passageway that enables boats to pass from one body of water to another.

3 The scientific name for this butterfly is *Danaus plexippus*.

4 One of the five boroughs in New York City. It is an island that can be reached from Manhattan by ferry or from New Jersey by bridge.

5 Watching someone closely. The U.S. government has programs that specialize in this.

9 A person who supports and fights for the rights of a community other than their own.

ACROSS

6 A type of bottom-up political movement organized and led by a community.

7 The capital of this country is Brussels.

8 A series of political rallies that began in Raleigh, North Carolina in 2013.

10 A way of getting from one place to another that is open for communal use.

11 To expel a person from one country back to their country of origin.

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